

DATE: January 28, 2013
TO: RMC Governing Board
FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Item 10: Project and Liaison Activities

Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management (GLAC IRWM) Plan:

The GLAC IRWM region completed the project submission review in November 2012 for the second round of Proposition 84 Implementation Funding from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Project prioritization and ranking took place to develop a suite of projects as part of the Greater Los Angeles Regional grant proposal package for Round Two funding. The final grant package totaled thirteen projects for a total funding request of \$23,278,000. The list of projects included seven Disadvantaged Community projects (DAC); however, one project submitted by the City of Long Beach has since dropped out due to funding constraints. The project was called the Graywater Standard Implementation Project. This leaves a total of six DAC projects, a great number of DAC projects than submitted in Round One.

The region is now preparing for the third and final round of project submissions as well as continuing to meet among regional Steering Committees represented by various cities and water agencies. The GLAC IRWMP is being led by the consultant team to discuss the net set of plan implementation and future governance topics, review and classify projects uploaded into the project database, OPTI, and discuss the project prioritization process for all projects included in the revised IRWM Plan. The Leadership Committee meets every month and the next scheduled meeting will be January 23, 2013 at the LA County Public Works headquarters in Alhambra.

A separate effort spearheaded by Alcanza, an RMC grantee, resulted in the development of two projects in the Cities of Lynwood and Compton that have specific water quality benefits consistent with the goals of the IRWM process. Of these two projects, the Lynwood project has been submitted for consideration to the Gateway region. Finally, the Council for Watershed Health (CWH) has completed its outreach work for the four of the five sub-regions of the GLAC IRWM region. One project deliverable is the development of a document that will detail their outreach methods for community involvement that will primarily serve the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) as part of the integrated regional water management grants.

RMC ACTIVE PROJECTS

Azusa Geology Park (RMC10009): The City of Azusa, in cooperation with California Resource Connections (CRC) will develop a City owned parcel into a geology interpretive park. The park is approximately 0.5-acre located east of the San Gabriel River Bike Trail and will create new access to the San Gabriel River regional bike trail connecting it to a quarter mile of underutilized City trail enhanced with native landscaping and interpretative signage. CRC has completed 75% construction documents which are currently being reviewed by the City of Azusa. Construction is tentatively scheduled for March 2013.

Bellflower Riverview Park (RMC 3238): On October 2, 2012, the City of Bellflower celebrated the ribbon cutting of this park project which provides a natural, riverfront environment along the San Gabriel River, serving as a regional resource to the surrounding communities.

The city will be submitting its final payments in order to close out this project. The project was funded through a grant from the California Natural Resources Agency in the amount of \$2,970,871.00 and \$300,000 from the RMC.

Colorado Lagoon Re-vegetation and Restoration Project (RMC11001):

This grant will include revitalization of 18 acres of coastal habitat at Colorado Lagoon in the City of Long Beach. The restoration will include: enhancement of 7.5 acres of coastal marine habitat and re-vegetate 5 acres of mixed salt marsh, sage scrub, coastal strand, and eelgrass plant communities. Friends of Colorado Lagoon have completed the planting of the intertidal areas and initiated the plantings of the upland areas. In addition, FOCL began their planning process for the recreational and interpretive installations. Following are the upcoming public events.

FRIENDS OF COLORADO LAGOON
Event Calendar • January - June 2013

All events begin at the Wetland and Marine Science Education Center (WAMSEC) located at Appian Way and E. Colorado Street in Long Beach, CA. Service learning credits available.

Help us restore the newly re-contoured and dredged Colorado Lagoon Western Arm Habitat Reserve while learning about the local coastal ecology. Each event is led by FOCL naturalists and all necessary tools are provided. Wear appropriate shoes and sun protection.

COMMUNITY RESTORATION	Monthly Habitat Restorations 2nd Saturdays from 10am-12pm Upcoming dates: Jan 12th, Feb 9th, Mar 9th, Apr 13th, May 11th, June 8th	Lagoon Afternoons 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 3-5pm Upcoming dates: Jan 10th, Jan 24th, Feb 14th, Feb 28th, Mar 14th, Mar 28th, Apr 11th, Apr 25th, May 9th, May 23rd, June 13th, June 27th	Salt Marsh Mondays Every Monday from 10am-12pm Help FOCL naturalists restore the Lagoon's salt marsh habitat and keep the ecosystem clean and healthy.
	EDUCATION & SPECIAL EVENTS	Estuary Exploration Every 2nd Saturday, 8am-10am Explore and tour the wonders of Colorado Lagoon with trained FOCL naturalists.	Migratory Bird Day Saturday, Jan 26th, 10am-12pm Celebrate migration season with a specially themed nature walk. Stay after to help us build bird habitat with a native planting!

Celebrate Earth Day!
April 20th, 10am-12pm
This special event marks our last planting of the season - help place the final touches in the new Western Arm Reserve! Refreshments provided.

ECOversations
April 19th, 7pm-9pm
FOCL naturalists and guest speakers will share presentations about our environment and community!

Please visit us online!
ColoradoLagoon.org

Find us on:
facebook.
Google Calendar

For more information, questions, or to RSVP your group for an event, please contact:
Education@ColoradoLagoon.org

Special thanks to our partners in restoration!

Coyote Creek-Los Alamitos Improvement Project (RMC3318):

The City of Los Alamitos has finalized the lease documents with Southern California Edison (SCE) for use of the property as a passive park which has paved the way to begin construction on the site. To that end, the City has begun site prep activities including the start of 'grow/kill' cycles to reduce weed seed banks in the soil. The city is in communication with LACFCD to complete a new use agreement to install an irrigation water line from city the ROW across a short strip of LACFCD frontage to supply water to the project site. Golden State Water Company will extend water supply line to provide a point of connection for the project.

De Forest Park Wetland Restoration Project (RMC10006):

This grant will restore wetland habitat for a 33.6 acre flood detention basin adjacent to the Los Angeles River with a degraded wetland dominated by exotic species.

DeForest Wetlands will restore 34 acres of historic wetlands, scrub and woodland habitat, provide water quality improvements, passive recreational amenities and interpretive enhancement while retaining flood control properties to create a river parkway. Currently the designs are being reviewed by LA County Flood Control and awaiting approval, construction is tentatively scheduled for Summer 2013.

San Gabriel River Trail Connector to Pio Pico State Historic Park (RMC3567): Development of construction drawings and implementation of a new class two multipurpose trail connecting Pio Pico State Historic Park to the existing Class 1 San Gabriel River Bikeway. Grant extension through December 2013 pending January RMC Board meeting, see Item 14. The City is requesting additional time to continue to work with LA County Public Works for approval of the construction documents and permits for this bike trail improvement. Approvals have already been obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers who also reviewed and approved the project. In addition, the City is working with the City of Pico Rivera to obtain a commitment letter for the long term maintenance of the improvements once project is complete.

Phase 1 Implementation of Puente Creek Nature Center (RMC3594): Phase I of the Puente Creek Nature Education Center includes the construction of the park based on the completed master plan. The project elements include walking trails, entrance gates and signage. The project is currently underway with a grant end date projected for June 2013. The City also received a HUD Economic Development Initiative grant from Congresswoman Napolitano. Groundbreaking took place in November 2011.

Huntington Park Trail and Open Space Development (RMC09112):

Phase 1 which includes planning, design, CEQA and permits for 5.8 acres of open space and 1.63 trail miles at Salt Lake Park, the largest park in the City of Huntington Park. Rehab includes replacement of irrigation systems for water conservation, native landscaping, lighting, and signage. This project is currently underway and the RMC- funded improvements are expected to be completed by January 2013.

Vermont Median Park Project (RMC10015): The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works will be implementing recreational park-like improvements on Vermont Avenue between 88th Street and 92nd Street in the unincorporated area of Athens in Los Angeles County. The project area covers approximately 1.75 acres and is located on two 56-foot wide existing medians. Improvements include a central 12-foot wide decomposed granite path for pedestrian use; decorative pedestrian lights along the entire path; picnic tables, chess tables, benches, trash receptacles, bicycle bollards with racks, fitness equipment, ADA upgrades for pedestrian access, decorative fencing along the island perimeter, native and drought tolerant plants; and an irrigation system appropriate to the environmental conditions for this project. Other project partners include St. Michael's Church, Heal the Bay, the local 8th District Neighborhood Council, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd District).

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington Elementary (RMC12001): The Los Angeles Conservation Corps is collaborating with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to convert a portion of a 4.2 acre site located at Washington Elementary School into a new park with innovative water conservation and storm water runoff re-use features. Additional partners include the Compton Unified School District and the City of Compton. Approximately two thirds of the project has been completed including the installation of a 127,000 gallon cistern, a large amphitheater, exercise equipment, shade structures, native plantings, irrigation, seating and amenities for the public.

Washington Elementary is a public school that serves kindergarten through fifth grade. Additional funding partners include the California Coastal Conservancy, the Natural Resources Agency, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the RMC.

Alcanza IRWMP Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Project (RMC 10019): This is a planning and outreach grant whose primary goals includes increasing awareness of the Integrated Regional Water Management Process (IRWMP) and the creation of multi-benefit projects in collaboration with disadvantaged community members. The grantee engaged community residents in the cities of Lynwood and Compton which resulted in the development of two projects with specific water quality benefits consistent with the goals of the IRWM process. Of these two projects, the Lynwood project has been submitted for consideration to the Gateway region. Notification of project acceptance for the Lynwood project within the Gateway region is pending.

WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Azusa River Wilderness Park Project: Construction Documents for the Special Use Area are complete. Staff recently submitted a grant in the amount of \$350,000 to the State's Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) through the California Department of Transportation and the Resources Agency on Jan. 4, 2013. Matching funds from the RMC and 1st Supervisorial District total \$1,050,000. The grant proposal was specifically to fund the construction of a portion of the Special Use Area at the River Wilderness Park featuring educational, interpretive, natural and recreational elements as a roadside recreation element consistent with the EEMP guidelines. The identified related transportation facility is the Los Angeles-Pasadena Foothill Extension Gold Line light rail project. Grant notification will take place in June-July 2013.

City of Los Alamitos' Coyote Creek River Parkway: The City of Los Alamitos has finalized the lease documents with Southern California Edison (SCE) for use of the property as a passive park which has paved the way to begin construction on the site. To that end the City has begun site prep activities including the start of 'grow/kill' cycles to reduce weed seed banks in the soil. The city is in communication with LACFCD to complete a new use agreement to install an irrigation water line from city the ROW across a short strip of LACFCD frontage to supply water to the project site. Golden State Water Company will extend water supply line to provide a point of connection for the project.

Duck Farm Project: The project accepted a \$1.4 million River Parkway grant from Resources Agency in November 2012. The additional funding will support the construction of the riparian habitat area and demonstration garden, amongst other park amenities. Secured funding for the project is now \$8.5M.

Permitting efforts are ongoing. To date comments have been received from the following permitting agencies: LA County Flood Control, LA County Department of Public Works, Regional Planning, Land Development and LA Department of Water and Power. Updates to reflect permit comments received are underway and once completed the CD package will be sent out to the following permitting agencies for approval: Caltrans, SCE, LA County Building and Safety and Land Development. Land Transfer approval consideration from U.S. Army Corps remains pending, LACFCD submitted 408 permit set to ACOE in September 2012 for review with comments pending.

Site preparations of the future pocket park continue with the completion of the well abandonment and construction of privacy wall at the pocket park entrance along San Fidel Ave. Establishment and warranty work on the Westside Step 1 construction is currently being evaluated by a replacement contractor. A claim has been submitted against the surety with the Department of Insurance in Pennsylvania. Contracts with General Contractor, America West Landscape, Inc. (AWL) have been terminated due to their having abandoned the job and closing down of their operations. Legal representation has been engaged and is working on behalf of the Agency to handle legal aspects of the contract termination including damages and potential claims.

In other construction activities, WCA provided SCE's TRTP project team with seed mix call-outs so they can reseed the area disturbed by their work.

Emerald Necklace: The Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan, for which the WCA is the lead agency, are well underway with the feasibility study portion of the project nearly complete with 44 project identified. Sixteen project have been prioritized to be included in the implementation plan. Project description for the environmental analysis are currently being finalized. Agency outreach is also currently underway with the community outreach beginning by April 2013.

The vision for the Emerald Necklace is to create a 17-mile loop of connected parks by a continuous greenway throughout 10 cities and provide open space to nearly 500,000 residents along the Río Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers. Since its inception, a number of stakeholders have developed numerous projects and activities that help accomplish this vision. In order to better coordinate and facilitate both projects and activities along the Emerald Necklace, staff participates in monthly coordinating meetings with Los Angeles County Supervisor's District 1 staff and project team stakeholders.

San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project: This project proposes to conduct improvements on the portion of the confluence of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River with Cattle Canyon and its creek. The project is adjacent to the burn area of the 2012 Williams Fire, however staff has not identified any significant fire impacts to the project site. Efforts will include a feasibility study, development of the site, interpretive and directional signage, an Interpretive program utilizing the Southern California Consortium project and a study on the effectiveness of the Interpretive Program. This pilot project will be completed with the intent that it is replicable in other areas of the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel River Watershed. Development and implementation of this project will be through a collaboration of the USFS, RMC, Sierra Club, Southern California Consortium and the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; all of the partners allocating staff time to the project. An interpretive and education outreach program, as well as a visitor survey is scheduled to begin this summer season.

A new contractual instrument to formalize the partnership between the Angeles National Forest and the WCA has been proposed by the Angeles National Forest and will be brought before the WCA Board on January 24, 2013. The purpose of this Mast Participation Agreement is to facilitate the required participation from the Angeles National Forest.

WCA staff has been working with the US Forest Service Southern California Consortium and Southwest Research Station, as well as with staff from the San Gabriel Ranger District of the Angeles National Forest to conduct a request for proposal (RFP) for professional services to develop and administer a visitor survey to record information to be used in a later evaluation of the effectiveness of the interpretive program, as well as to provide stakeholder input about what physical improvements would be desirable at the site.

The WCA received 3 proposals, which have been evaluated. A recommendation to award a contract will be brought before the WCA Board on January 24, 2013.

The next steps for the project will be to initiate meetings of the project Executive and Advisory Committees in February to further develop the interpretive and education outreach program, as well as to develop the visitor survey sampling plan. WCA staff will also be release another RFP for site planning services.

South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios: In July 2012, the Army Corps of Engineers determined that this project design met the requirements for a 408 permit and issued a 408 permit for this project. This permit allows the WCA to operate and manage the park land consistent with their agreement. Staff anticipates issuing a Request for Bids for project construction in early 2013 with construction beginning shortly after. Construction will be funded by \$1.5 million Proposition A grant from the Los Angeles County Parks and Open Space District.

The proposed project consists of habitat restoration of a 7.6 acre vacant property located north of Imperial Highway, between the 710 Freeway and the Los Angeles River, with access to the LA River bike path. Construction designs are based on the work completed by North East Trees which includes habitat restoration, cyclist and a pedestrian path, two seating areas with picnic tables, bump-out shade structures, and interpretive signage.

Upper San Gabriel & Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator Program: Current focus areas of the Watershed Coordinator Program include providing access to nature and recreation, as well as helping to provide a regional vision for the integration of habitat, open space, and recreation within urban communities. Specific ongoing efforts of the Watershed Coordinator Program include GIS data collection, including creation of data where required of trail and recreational amenities, supporting of greenway and greenway trail planning, planning and implementing river clean-up events, investigating opportunities for the WCA to be the recipient of restoration or environmental enhancement projects conducted as third party mitigation, and staff attendance to regional collaborative meetings that relate to watershed functions. All tasks are being conducted within the program area, the Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Watersheds. Current funding will provide part time staffing (0.5 Full Time Equivalents) of the programs with a WCA employee in FY 2012/2013.

WCA staff is currently working with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District in identifying opportunities for mitigation of WCA property. Watershed coordinator activities have also include field scouting and partnership building for planning opportunities for greenways throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space: The Walnut Creek Habitat project encompasses a total of 60.9 acres, a combination of 6.9 acres held by the City of San Dimas adjacent to Loma Vista Park, and the WCA's 54 acres. These two holdings are seen as integral to each other in the planning and development of the site into public open space. The open space concept is funded by a grant from the RMC to the WCA to acquire the property and develop the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space conceptual master plan. The total grant was \$8.4 million from Proposition 84 funds.

The Watershed Conservation Authority adopted the conceptual master plan for the Walnut Creek Habitat Open Space Property. Staff of both the City of San Dimas and the WCA are researching and looking for grant opportunities to move forward with the environmental work as well as implementation of Phase 1, the trails within the park and connecting with the Antonovich Trail.

In addition to the City of San Dimas and WCA, the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, an adjacent property owner, occupies the remainder of property that once comprised the original Voorhis Campus. Together, the City of San Dimas, Tzu Chi, and WCA properties currently have intermingled utility lines. Property boundaries between the Tzu Chi and WCA also bisect portions of the campus in several locations, which are utilized by the Tzu Chi. Efforts to develop appropriate utility easements across the Tzu Chi, WCA, and City of San Dimas properties are underway, and the Tzu Chi has approached the WCA and the City of San Dimas with several proposals for land exchanges to provide the Tzu Chi full ownership of the buildings within their campus and to provide for better internal circulation. In addition to land transfers, the proposals also include opportunities for the WCA to be provided conservation easements over the Tzu Chi property. WCA staff is working with the Tzu Chi and the City of San Dimas to work out the potential land exchanges and lot adjustments, and the status of developing utility easements.

SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER AUTHORITY

San Gabriel River Discovery Center: Staff is working with the community and stakeholders to expand support of the project. Outreach activities include presentations to civic groups, engaging supporters and discussions with Nature Center supporters. The Authority received a grant from the RMC to develop and run programs for up to two years at the Whittier Narrows Nature Center. The Authority staff is developing these programs in collaboration with the Youth Science Center. The Discovery Center Foundation is moving forward with its capital campaign.

LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY

The LCWA hired Moffatt & Nichol to complete the restoration feasibility study for the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands. The Technical Advisory Committee met on November 8, 2012 and discussed the final three alternatives. In addition, several technical studies such as the Biological Resources and Watershed Impacts Reports have been completed and are posted on the CRP website, <http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org>.

The Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program, since June 2010 has hosted over 163 public events. Habitat Restoration events (co-sponsored by the Aquarium of the Pacific and Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewards) occur every first Saturday of each month, wetlands trash clean-ups (hosted by Save Our Beach) occur every 2nd Friday of each month, and wetlands land tours (hosted by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust) every 1st Saturday of each month.

Our newest program is a weekly Plant Propagation Party (hosted by Tidal Influence) during which dedicated volunteers meet each Friday afternoon and propagate wetlands plants for future plantings at Zedler Marsh. The flyer that follows shows all upcoming LCWSP events through June 2013.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Programs



Participate in the EXPLORATION and ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION of 200 acres of coastal habitat at LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS

Los Cerritos Wetlands' coastal habitat straddles the border of LA & Orange counties. Our community-based programming is focused on restoring & bringing awareness to 200 acres of wetlands currently owned by Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority and Partners. All events meet near the Corner of 1st St. and PCH in Seal Beach (see map on opposite side).

We provide service-learning credits at all events.
The wetlands are wildlands; please dress accordingly for all events.
Closed toed shoes required. We encourage reusable water containers.
Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

For questions contact:
iwanttohelp@TidalInfluence.com
Or check our websites:
intoloscerritoswetlands@org
saveloscerritoswetlands on Facebook




Presented by:

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

**ALL PUBLIC EVENTS MEET AT
THE CORNER OF 1st & PCH IN SEAL BEACH**
See map on reverse for location

Upcoming Public Events

Monthly Trash Cleanups:
Save Our Beach hosts our wetlands trash cleanups
9:00am-11:00am on the 2nd Friday of each month.
Upcoming days: Fri. Jan 11th, Feb 8th, Mar 8th,
Apr 12th, May 10th, June 14th

Monthly Habitat Restorations:
LCW Land Trust & Aquarium of the Pacific sponsor our
Zedler Marsh restoration planting events
10:30am-12:30pm on the 1st Saturday of each month.
Upcoming dates: Sat. Jan 5th, Feb 2nd, Mar 2nd,
Apr 6th, May 4th, June 1st
Participants are eligible to win a free ticket to the
Aquarium of the Pacific and other prizes!

Wetlands Property Land Tours:
LCW Land Trust sponsors our Land Tour program in
cooperation with Tidal Influence
8:00 am – 10:00am on the 1st Saturday of each month.
Contact ejlambe@verizon.net for tour details.
Upcoming dates: Sat. Jan 5th, Feb 2nd, Mar 2nd,
Apr 6th, May 4th, June 1st

Thanks to Our Partners in Conservation:












